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PAGE 01

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STATSPEC

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RR RUEAIIB  
 ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH  
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 ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
 R 121559Z SEP 73  
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
 TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 4466  
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 UNCLAS STATE 181038

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
 TAGS: SENV, UR, OTRA

SUBJ: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: ALPHA-HELIX

1. ROBERT V. MILLER OF NOAA HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ALASKA AND REPORTS THAT SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN ALPHA HELIX EXERCISE WAS FULL SUCCESS. BESIDE WORK DONE WITH OTHER SCIENTISTS ABOARD RESEARCH VESSEL, SOVIET SCIENTIST WHO REMAINED ON LAND FOR FIRST PART OF EXPEDITION (FEDOSEEV, NOT GOLTSEV) CONTRIBUTED SOME VALUABLE WORK IN MEASURING ICE SEAL SKULLS.

2. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED WITHOUT ANY RESIDUE OF CONCERN. MONEY TO TAKE CARE OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS WAS PROBLEM FROM OUTSET, AND AS EMBASSY AWARE, US HOST DR. ROBERT ELSNER WAS DOUBTFUL HE COULD HANDLE TWO SOVIET VISITORS. HE APPARENTLY MADE GREAT EFFORT TO MEET ALL SOVIET NEEDS, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDED STOPOVERS FOR BRIEF RESEARCH IN SEATTLE AND AT NEW YORK NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM. MILLER MET WITH FEDOSEEV AND GOLTSEV AT END THEIR SEATTLE STOPOVER AND SAID THEY WERE VERY HAPPY WITH ENTIRE VISIT.

3. AGREEMENT REACHED IN MOSCOW IN JANUARY 1973 WAS THAT RECEIVING SIDE WOULD PAY, BUT NOTHING WAS SPECIFIED ABOUT PER DIEM. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT ORDINARILY "RECEIVING SIDE PAYS" CALLS FOR FURNISHING OF SOME PER DIEM, THIS IS NOT RIGID RULE, AND WE BELIEVE THAT IN SPECIAL ALASKAN CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALPHA HELIX EXERCISE BOTH SOVIET PARTICIPANTS

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*Environment*

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PAGE 02-02

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CAME OFF WELL WITHOUT RECEIVING ANY PER DIEM. IF HYDROMET  
PURSUES SUBJECT, EMBASSY CAN ADVISE THEM OF FOREGOING, AND  
SAY THAT US HOSTS ARE UNDER IMPRESSION SOVIET VISITORS WOUND  
UP WELL PLEASED WITH THEIR VISIT. RUSH

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